



BLUE LINE EXPRESS

A project report from Dallas Area Rapid Transit | Winter 2011

Safety Around Construction Zones

Do not walk, ride or play in a construction area.



Construction zones are busy places where dangerous work is taking place. For safety reasons, Rowlett and Garland residents should avoid construction zones and obey posted signs.

It is important that parents and teachers teach children about the dangers that construction sites pose. Heavy equipment operators could easily miss seeing a child and large construction vehicles pose extreme danger.

Blue Line Facts at a Glance

- 4.5 miles extension from downtown Garland to downtown Rowlett
- Total Blue Line Project cost \$360 million
- Rowlett Blue Line extension opens in December 2012
- Rowlett Creek bridge is the longest bridge on the Blue Line extension
- The Rowlett Creek Bridge is constructed with 27 columns, 10,804 cubic feet of concrete beams, and 4,400 cubic yards of concrete
- The Blue Line extension, which will run from downtown Garland to downtown Rowlett, includes the construction of six new bridges
- The Blue Line runs along the DGNO Railroad line and crosses the KCS Railroad one time

Bridging Two Cities

The Blue Line extension project includes the construction of new bridges and the improvement of existing ones. The Rowlett Creek Bridge and the State Highway 66 Bridge are both currently under construction. Each will provide additional connections between Rowlett and Garland, and ultimately to the Dallas/Fort Worth area.



Rowlett Creek Light Rail Bridge

The Blue Line LRT Bridge over Rowlett Creek is a half-mile long and includes one mile of light rail track. This bridge has 27 columns; 4,400 cubic yards of concrete; and a staggering 10,804 cubic feet of concrete beams.

The existing State Highway 66 Bridge is already a major artery, and it includes freight rail track for the Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad (DGNO). The new light rail bridge will be built parallel to the existing freight bridge, which will receive much-needed improvements as part of the project. Completion of the light rail bridge is expected in June of 2011.

Buffering the Noise

Between the Blue Line and the Rainbow Estates neighborhood, DART is constructing a wall to enhance safety and to buffer sound. The 12-foot wall was designed with beauty, as well as function, in mind. The top half of the pre-cast wall will emulate a stucco-style finish with the bottom portion resembling an ashlar finish – a masonry technique of stacking stones to create an appealing look.

“We’re excited; it is something that we have longed for,” said Mrs. Ida Clark, a

Rowlett Creek Light Rail Bridge

- 27 Columns
- 10,804 cubic feet of concrete beams
- 4,400 cubic yards of concrete
- Expected completion: July 2011

resident of Rainbow Estates, the small neighborhood between Lou Huffs Park and the DGNO railroad tracks. The wall is being built behind homes along Parker Circle and Davidson Drive.

Construction crews cleared trees last fall and the wall’s foundation was laid in December. The wall is scheduled for completion in June. Crews will work during daytime hours and on some Saturdays to ensure the wall is in place by the scheduled time.

Keeping the Project on Schedule



Travis Kralicke is Austin Bridge & Road's scheduler and subcontractor coordinator on the Blue Line extension project. His role is important in keeping the project on course. He

ensures that subcontractors are allocating their resources appropriately and meeting critical due dates outlined by the project schedule. Travis is always looking far ahead. A concrete bridge beam must be ordered six months in advance so that it is onsite during the installation phase. It is ultimately Travis' responsibility to ensure that permanent materials that subcontractors are supposed to procure are on the job when they are needed.

Travis says that being an effective scheduler and subcontractor coordinator really boils down to being a master communicator who can dispense complex information with precision and clarity – and he expects the same from his team members and subcontractors.

“In my five years at Austin, I've learned that no matter how well you manage your time or how strong your multi-tasking skills may be, keeping the whole team on the same page is the real challenge and the key to a successful project,” Travis says. “At any given time, I'm overseeing multiple activities progressing at different stages, and concise and accurate information is what really wins the day in the end.”

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– Travis Kralicke, Austin Bridge & Road's scheduler and subcontractor coordinator

Future Improvements for Martin Drive

New sidewalks, road, 48 historic, decorative street lights and landscaping will greet Rowlett residents and other users of the new DART Downtown Rowlett Station. Martin Drive will serve as the primary route for access to the station and gateway to downtown Rowlett. The city will improve Martin Drive from Industrial Street to State Highway 66 before the Blue Line light rail begins revenue service in December of 2012.

The Martin Drive improvements are designed to provide Rowlett residents with easy access to the station and downtown

Rowlett, while providing a safe and pleasant experience. The Martin Drive improvements are an example of the city's commitment to the highest standards in all areas of business and lifestyle. The improvements are financially supported by the city of Rowlett through a \$1.3-million grant from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

The design and landscaping planned for Martin Drive is complementary to the Downtown Rowlett Station currently being constructed by Austin Bridge & Road.

Project Update

The DART Blue Line Extension project linking downtown Garland to downtown Rowlett continues on course for its opening in December of 2012.

Downtown Rowlett Station –

A ceremonial kick off on March 23 marked the start of construction. Expected completion is December 2012.

Rowlett Road at Main Street –

Southbound lanes are now open. Construction has begun on the northbound side.

Martin Drive at Melcer Drive –

Construction and reconfiguration of the

roadway continues. Expected completion is May 2011.

Rainbow Estates Sound Wall –

The wall foundation construction continues. Expected completion is June 2011

Commerce Street Light Rail Structure –

Demolition and preliminary construction activities have begun. Expected completion is May 2011.

Main Street Bridge –

Steady progress continues. This bridge will be complete by May 2011.

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Website & Social Media

Blue Line Project

www.DART.org/about/expansion/blue.asp

Austin Bridge & Road

www.austinprojects.com

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